

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01639 051330Z
ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, SHUM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: ITEM 6, VIOLATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: STATE 49199

1. SUMMARY: THE HRC COMPLETED ACTION FRIDAY,
MARCH 4, ON AGENDA ITEM 6, (A) VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ADOPTING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS. USDEL
DELIVERED GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT PRIOR TO VOTE
EMPHASIZING U.S. COMMITMENT TO CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA
AND HOPES THAT 1978 ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR WILL INITIATE
A YEAR OF COOPERATION ON GOALS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HRC COMPLETED ACTION FRIDAY, MARCH 4
ON AGENDA ITEM 6 WITH ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS, REFTEL.
THE VOTING WAS BY ROLL CALL VOTE ON EACH OF THE THREE
SECTIONS, A, B, AND C. PRIOR TO THE VOTE THE
COMMISSION ENGAGED IN A BRIEF PROCEDURE DEBATE OVER
WHETHER THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE SHOULD BE PUT TO A
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01639 051330Z

VOTE FOLLOWING VOTING ON THE SEPARATE PARTS. THE ISSUE
OF A VOTE ON THE WHOLE WAS INITIALLY PROMOTED BY THE
YUGOSLAV CHAIRMAN AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED, PRESUMABLY
WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING THE U.S. IN AN EMBARRASSING
POSITION BY HAVING TO CAST AN ABSTENTION ON THE WHOLE
AND REDUCING THE IMPACT OF OUR "YES" VOTE ON SECTION
B. HOWEVER, THE U.S. ARGUED THAT A VOTE ON THE WHOLE

WAS NOT NECESSARY OR REQUIRED BY PRECEDENT AND WAS
EVENTUALLY SUPPORTED BY THE CO-SPONSORS.

3. PRIOR TO THE VOTE THE DELEGATION OF
CANADA, AFTER DELIVERING A LENGTHY LIST OF RESERVATIONS
PARALLELING THOSE OF THE U.S., ANNOUNCED THAT IN
ORDER TO SHOW ITS OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IT WOULD
VOTE "YES" ON THE WHOLE RESOLUTION. OTHER EXPLANA-
TIONS OF VOTE BEFORE THE VOTE INCLUDED UK AND FRG,
BOTH STATING RESERVATIONS ON OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS
4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, AND 17.

4. THE VOTE ON SECTION A WAS 28-1(US)-3(FRG),
IGALY, UK). PART B WAS ADOPTED BY 32 VOTES IN
FAVOR. THE VOTE ON PART C WAS 26-0-6(US, UK,
AUSTRIA, FRG, ITALY, SWEDEN).

5. USDEL MADE EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE,
AS DID SWEDEN AND ITALY. SWEDEN VOTED "YES" ON PART A,
WHILE EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS OVER THE HAVANA SEMINAR,
DECLARATION OF DAKAR, APARTHEID CONVENTION, AND SOME
OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT.
FOLLOWING EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE, SENEGAL MADE A BRIEF
STATEMENT THANKING CANADA FOR HAVING THE COURAGE TO
VOTE "YES" ON THE WHOLE RESOLUTION.

6. IN A GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT DELIVERED PRIOR
TO ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, USDEL (LOWENSTEIN)
EMPHASIZED COMMITMENT OF THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01639 051330Z

CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE
REASONS FOR DISCUSSIONS, DIVISION AND CONFUSION OVER
TACTICS BUT NONE OVER GOALS WHICH INCLUDE CREATION OF
A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS. HE STATED
THAT IF THE 1978- ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR IS APPROVED BY THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WE HOPE TO INITIATE A YEAR
OF COOPERATION ON THESE GOALS, RECOGNIZING THAT
DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH ARE ONLY TACTICAL, AND EXIST
EVEN AMONG THE MOST COMMITTED AFRICANS. HE
CONCLUDED THAT IF WE UNITE ON THIS ISSUE, IT WILL
PERHAPS SET A PATTERN IN WHICH THE HRC CAN BEGIN TO
FIND WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. CATTO

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